A PICU PATIENT SAFETY CHECKLIST: RATE OF UTILIZATION AND IMPACT ON PATIENT CARE

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Introduction: In healthcare, checklists help to ensure patients receive evidence-based, safe care. Since 2007, we have used a bedside checklist in our PICU to facilitate daily discussion of care-related questions at each bedside.

Objectives: The primary aim of this study was to assess compliance with checklist use and to assess how often individual checklist elements affected patient management. A secondary aim was to determine whether patient and unit factors (severity of illness, unit census, weekday vs. weekend, admitting diagnosis group) influenced checklist use.

Methods: The study was conducted in the CHEO PICU, a 12-bed cardiac and medical-surgical unit. A research assistant attended daily bedside rounds to assess compliance with the use of the checklist in eligible patients, and to determine whether discussion of an individual checklist element was associated with a change in the patient’s management plan. Data was also collected on patient census, severity of illness using PELOD score, day of the week (weekday vs. weekend), and admitting diagnosis group (cardiac vs. non-cardiac).

Results: 148 encounters were collected on 28 days between September 2013 and February 2014. Compliance with the checklist was 89.2% (132/148; 95% CI 83.2 – 93.2%) and was not influenced by admitting diagnosis group, patient census, severity of patient’s conditions or weekday/weekend status. The checklist affected the patient management plan 52.6% of the time (69/132; 95% CI 44.2 – 61%). The items that most commonly affected the patient management plan included whether a chest radiograph should be ordered for the next morning (11.4%, 15/132; 95% CI 7 – 17.9%), whether the frequency of bloodwork had been evaluated (11.4%, 15/132; 95% CI 7 – 17.9%), whether any new consults were needed (10.6%, 14/132; 95%CI 6.4 – 17%) and whether NG or NJ position had been verified on radiograph (9.1%, 12/132; 95% CI 5.3 – 15.2%).

Conclusion: Our study found that compliance with checklist use at daily bedside PICU rounds was high. Checklist use frequently resulted in a change in the patient management plan.

References: N/A